

Meeting Minutes

Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission Tuesday, September 22, 2015 – Minneapolis Central Library

Meeting attendees: Raya Esmaeili, Nick Cichowicz, Queen Kimmons, David Zaffrann, Ishmael Israel, Antoine Martinneau, Nasser Mussa, Denis Houle, Eric Gustafson, Braulio Carrasco, Tessa Wetjen, Debra Behrens and Doron Clark.

NCEC members excused: Francisco Segovia and Jeanne Montrese.

NCEC members absent: David Boyd.

1. Public Comment

No members of the public were present to speak during this allotted time period.

2. Introductions

Call to order: Chair Israel called the September 22, 2015 meeting to order at 5:10p.m.

Approve Agenda:

Motion: Gustafson, seconded by Kimmons to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

3. One Minneapolis Fund Report from Appetite for Change

Michele Horovitz of Appetite for Change presented to the commission the work that her organization has been doing with the funding they've received from the One Minneapolis Fund. Overall the goal of their program is to increase access to healthy foods. The organization, Appetite for Change, runs community programs where individuals and families have the opportunity to Cook, Eat and Talk. The organization also began running Breaking Bread Café, a new restaurant on West Broadway, that provides job training and employment opportunities to community members and has created a community gathering space and a new place to eat.

Comments:

- Israel asked if there was any outreach done to neighborhood organizations.
 - Ms. Horovitz responded that they have not yet reached out to all the neighborhoods on the Northside at the point they are at now. However, originally they officed with the Jordan Area Community Council and planned a Community Cooks event and connected with Urban Ag. in partnership with them. They've also worked with Hawthorne and

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Harrison on a Community Cooks event and worked with them on some of the healthy food stores initiatives they were working on. There are more partnerships to be made.

- Houle noted that during her presentation, Ms. Horovitz mentioned that there were vacant lots that they were unable to use; he wanted to know why that was.
 - Ms. Horovitz stated these were city or county owned lots that are slated for possible projects down the road. CPED is aware of the community's desire to use them temporarily.
- Mussa asked what sort of efforts Appetite for Change did to expose people to farming in other areas, such as rural areas.
 - Ms. Horovitz shared that they work with lots of great partners that do that work.
- Carrasco asked if they have any relationships with schools.
 - Ms. Horovitz said that their building is located right next to the school district headquarters, but that they don't directly connect with the schools on programming. However, many of the families that attend the Community Cooks events are members of the MPS school system.

4. Executive Committee Reports

Chair's Report: Chair Israel welcomed the commission.

Secretary's Report:

1. **Minutes:** Commissioners noted a few typos in the minutes, the word "convener" was misspelled as "conveyor" and Gustafson was listed in the motion to approve the agenda when he was absent from the meeting. Additionally, Wetjen would like to have links to reports being referenced in the minutes. The commission did not approve the August 2015 NCEC minutes, they will be edited and forwarded to the October meeting for approval.
2. **Attendance Report:** There is a quorum present with 11 Commissioners in attendance. Commissioners Clark will be arriving late, Segovia and Montrese are excused from the September meeting.
3. **Bylaws Task Force:** The group hasn't met yet. Stay tuned for a report in the future.
4. **October Committee of the Whole:** There will be an October Committee of the Whole meeting to review the re-written Blueprint for Equitable Engagement document.

Comments:

- Wetjen requests all documents 7 days prior to the meeting.

5. Neighborhoods

- A. **Neighborhoods 2020:** Gustafson gave an overview of the purpose of the Neighborhoods 2020 Committee. The committee is comprised of members of the NCEC and members of the public. They are charged with looking at the future of neighborhoods in the year 2020 and beyond. They are looking to do outreach to connect with neighborhood organizations and under-engaged communities about the

future of neighborhoods. They are also looking at funding formula changes and crafting a community vision for neighborhood work. The committee is seeking approval from the commission to approve the proposed membership for the committee:

1. Eric Gustafson (NCEC) Co-Chair
2. Shauen Pearce Co-Chair
3. Ishmael Israel (NCEC)
4. Denis Houle (NCEC)
5. Jennifer Arnold
6. Antoine Martinneau (NCEC)
7. David Boyd (NCEC)
8. Raya Esmaeili (NCEC)
9. Mohamed Mohamed
10. Jeffrey Strand

Motion: Zaffrann moves, Martinneau seconds to approve the membership of the neighborhoods 2020 committee and give the committee the ability to fill any vacancies that may arise with geographic and ward balance in mind. Motion carried.

Comments:

- Wetjen asked how the other members of the committee were recruited for these positions.
 - The full NCEC committee was offered up the opportunity to join the committee, the remaining seats were filled by neighborhood members the group thought would be a good fit.
- Zaffrann asked when the committee might plan to have a work product back in front of the commission.
 - In either January or February.

1. Community Engagement

- A. City Department Engagement Task Force:** The work of this committee has been delayed and the group is meeting next week to review the City's current process model guidebook and begin to update it.

2. Policy

Wetjen proposed gathering a group together to discuss the issue of gardening in vacant lots brought forth by Ms. Horovitz from Appetite for Change. Commissioners Israel, Wetjen, Kimmons, Cichowicz and Martinneau are interested in looking into this issue.

Motion: Wetjen moves, Cichowicz seconds to create a Gardening Lots Policy Task Force, with the group disbanding within two months of its first convening, with membership including Israel, Wetjen, Kimmons, Cichowicz and Martinneau. Motion carried.

Adjournment: Wetjen moves, Kimmons seconds, to adjourn at 6:09p.m. Motion carried.